

FCC REPORTS DESPIERTA AMERICA NEWS DECEMBER 15-31 / PART 2

12/17/2012

FISCAL CLIFF LATEST

VO: 20

White House and congressional aides have worked through the weekend on ways to avoid the "fiscal cliff," and there are signs of movement. There's word that house speaker John Boehner (bay'-nur) is offering \$1 trillion in higher tax revenue over 10 years, and an increase in the top tax rate on people making more than \$1 million a year. Boehner is looking for \$1 trillion in spending cuts from government benefit programs like medicare. He's also pressing for a less generous inflation adjustment for social security benefits. The details come from officials familiar with the offer. Officials say boehner's offer on friday also includes a large enough extension in the government's borrowing cap to fund the government for one year before the issue would have to be revisited. But president Barack Obama would have to agree to the \$1 trillion in cuts. One democratic aide in congress says there's apparently been "good progress" since the offer was made.

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12/18/2012

FISCAL CLIFF LATEST

VO: 22

Just two weeks before the economy-threatening "fiscal cliff" is due to kick in, house speaker john boehner opened up a second legislative track to stop tax hikes from kicking in on jan. 1 for people making up to \$1 million a year. Boehner aides said the call for a separate tax bill, which the speaker presented to his caucus tuesday morning, does not mean the republican is cutting off negotiations with president barack obama on averting the full slate of tax hikes and spending cuts due to take effect next year. Obama and Boehner have each made significant concessions in recent days, signaling a new stage in the negotiations. Boehner's latest move is an attempt to give republicans political cover if washington fails to reach a deal before the end of the year and taxes increase on all income earners. The white house had no immediate response to boehner's 'plan b' proposal, but has previously rejected his attempts to extend tax cuts for families making up to \$1 million.

GAS PRICES LOWEST YEAR

VO: 28

Gas prices have slid to the lowest prices of the year as an estimated 84 million americans prepare to take a road trip by car this holiday season. The national average retail gasoline price on monday is the cheapest it has been during 2012 just shy of \$3.25 a gallon, according to aaa and oil price information service. The national average price has dropped every day this month and has fallen 16 percent since mid-september. It is now at the lowest average price since dec. 28, 2011, and only 4 cents shy of the december 2011 low of \$3.206 a gallon. If the u.S. Goes over the "fiscal cliff" and financial markets, including energy prices, tumble, then pump prices will follow suit and could dip below \$3 a gallon, kloza added. If that happened, it would be the first time the national average has dropped below that threshold since december 2010.

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES TO CHARGE NO-CANCEL FEE

VO: 23

Southwest Airlines is no longer going to allow passengers who miss flights to re-book for free. The dallas morning news reports the airline is starting a "no-show" fee. It will apply to people who bought restricted tickets and who didn't cancel their ticket before the flight. The newspaper reports the change will happen next year. No word on how much the fee will be for a missed flight.

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12/19/2012

US OBAMA GUN CONTROL

VO: 27

President Barack Obama will launch an administration-wide effort wednesday to create new policies aimed at preventing another mass school shooting. Obama is tasking vice president Joe Biden with spearheading the process, which is a response to friday's deadly attack at a connecticut elementary school. The president will announce the effort from the White House. White house aides say the president is not expected to announce any major policy decisions wednesday. But the initiative underscores the political urgency the white house feels in the wake of the shooting.

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12/20/2012

FISCAL CLIFF LATEST

VO: 32

The federal government's fiscal cliff is looming and your tax returns are among the pressing matters that could be affected. If congress fails to reach a deal by december 31-st, as many as 100-million people could see delays in their tax refunds. That's because the income exemption levels under the "wealth tax" or alternative minimum tax were never adjusted for inflation since it was enacted decades ago. Over the years, lawmakers have consistently passed a "patch" to raise those levels. They have not done so this year. Without a patch, 45-thousand-dollars for joint filers and just under 34-thousand-dollars for single taxpayers is exempt from the a-m-t. But adjusted for inflation, those levels would jump to almost 79-thousand-dollars for joint filers and around 50-grand for single taxpayers. The tax filing season begins in two weeks. Both sides agree that a patch is needed, but until a deal is reached, it will not be passed.

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12/24/2012

FISCAL CLIFF

VO: 27

With anxiety rising as the country lurches towards a "fiscal cliff," lawmakers are increasingly skeptical about a possible deal and some predict the best possibility would be a small-scale patch because time is running out before the yearend deadline. Even those who see the possibility of a deal don't expect a lot. With the collapse thursday of house speaker john boehner's plan to allow tax rates to rise on million-dollar-plus incomes, lieberman said: "it's the first time that i feel it's more likely we'll go over the cliff than not," meaning that higher taxes for most americans and painful federal agency budget cuts would be in line to go ahead. "if we allow that to happen it will be the most colossal consequential act of congressional irresponsibility in a long time, maybe ever in american history because of the impact it'll have on almost every american," said lieberman, a connecticut independent. Wyoming sen. Jon barrasso, a member of the gop leadership, predicted the new year would come without an agreement, and he faulted the white house.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: ICE AUDITS MORE BUSINESSES

VO: 33

U.S. Immigration and customs enforcement reached its highest number yet of companies audited for undocumented immigrants on their payrolls this past fiscal year. Audits of company i-9 forms increased from 250 in fiscal year 2007 to more than 3,000 in 2012. From fiscal years 2009 to 2012, the total amount

of fines grew to nearly \$13 million from \$1 million. The number of company managers arrested has increased to 238. The probing of employers is one of the pillars of president barack obama's immigration policy. He has also said that any plan congress considers this year to reform the nation's immigration system should continue the audits. Immigrant advocates say the audits have pushed workers further underground by causing mass layoffs and industry representatives say the audits disrupt business operations. The probing of employers is one of the pillars of president barack obama's immigration policy. He has also said that any plan congress considers this year to reform the nation's immigration system should continue the audits. Immigrant advocates say the audits have pushed workers further underground by causing mass layoffs and industry representatives say the audits disrupt business operations. The probing of employers is one of the pillars of president barack obama's immigration policy. He has also said that any plan congress considers this year to reform the nation's immigration system should continue the audits. Immigrant advocates say the audits have pushed workers further underground by causing mass layoffs and industry representatives say the audits disrupt business operations.

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12/25/2012

FISCAL CLIFF

VO: 31

Efforts to save the nation from going over a year-end "fiscal cliff" were in disarray as lawmakers fled the capitol for their christmas break. "god only knows" how a deal can be reached now, house speaker john boehner declared. President barack obama, on his way out of town himself, insisted a bargain could still be struck before dec. 31. "call me a hopeless optimist, a look at why it's so hard for republicans and democrats to compromise on urgent matters of taxes and spending, and what happens if they fail to meet their deadline.

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12/26/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/27/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/28/2012

NOTHING TO REPORT

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12/31/2012

FISCAL CLIFF

MARIA EUGENIA PAYÁN- MIAMI, FLORIDA

PKG: 1:48

We are in the final hours for lawmakers to keep the nation from going over the so-called 'fiscal cliff'. Economists fear the combination of automatic spending cuts and tax increases could trigger a new recession. Andrew spencer explains how negotiations today must now overcome a "major setback".

=====END OF REPORT=====